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2-16-1984

02/16/1984 - Construction To Commence On Locker Room

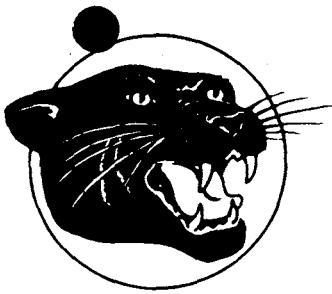
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Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "02/16/1984 - Construction To Commence On Locker Room" (1984). 1984. 430.
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Panther Sports News

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Feb. 16, 1984

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Construction will soon commence to provide new athletic locker room space in O'Brien Stadium and Lantz Gym for the football and basketball teams, Athletic Director R. C. Johnson announced Monday (Feb. 13).

University, athletic department and outside monies will be pooled to finance this project which will be completed by June 30, according to Johnson.

"This is an important development in the continued growth of the total athletic program. I'm very pleased we can have this finished so that it can be utilized next fall by the teams and staff," Johnson said.

"President (Stanley) Rives' support was essential in getting this project off the ground . . . he has been very supportive of having first class facilities."

In the football stadium, the coaches offices, locker room, weight room and meeting room will be completely renovated to make them more efficient.

"We believe we can make better use of existing facilities and, while we're at it, make them more functional for current players and attractive to potential recruits," Johnson explained.

"For example, (head coach) Al Molde's office will become much larger and therefore more conducive to entertaining visitors and recruits."

Both men's and women's basketball will have new lockerrooms in Lantz Gym. Those will be fully carpeted with individual wooden lockers for the players.

Renovation of existing space will also create two other separate locker rooms. One will be exclusively for visiting women's teams and the other a combination locker room principally for EIU women faculty/staff.

"While these changes may not be visible to the average fan, those closely involved with the teams believe it's a real plus and enhance their programs," Johnson said.